

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Summary
June 12, 2006

Members: Alan Bowser, Charlotte Coffield, Korey Hartwich, Graciela Jaschek, Phil Olivetti, Victor Salazar, Debbie Spielberg, Eric Hensal, Loyce Grigsby, Kathy Stevens, John Evanoff, Mary Pat Spon, Darian Unger, Marilyn Seitz, and Jerry Yokoyama, Victor Weissberg, Mark Woodard, and Mitch Warren.

Members Absent: None

Call to Order and Introduction

Chair Debbie Spielberg called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., members and attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Summary

Motion: (Olivetti, Stevens) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously adopted the minutes dated May 8, 2006

Community Comments

Marcie Stickle reported that she thinks that Alchemy should be included on a map of "Blair Mill Parking during Construction". She also suggested that the VanGo route be changed to better serve businesses on the east side of Georgia Avenue and that a signalized crosswalk be added on Georgia Avenue at Blair Mill Road

Gary Stith stated that the flyer mentioned by Marcie Stickles was put out by JBG who is the developer of the project. The flyer was done in conjunction with the businesses around Mayorga, Gallery and those businesses on that side of Georgia. We meet with the businesses every two weeks to make adjustments in the parking and discuss issues that need to be dealt with. We included Alchemy on the www.silverspringdowntown.com webpage for the parking in the Blair Mill Road area.

Lesile Downing, Sligo Park Hills Neighborhood attended the Neighborhoods Committee meeting last month and showed the Committee provocative photographs taken of the windows of the American Apparel Store located at the corner of Fenton and Colesville Road and asked if there was anything the Committee could do to have the photographs removed. The Neighborhood Committee voted to write a letter to the County Executive and County Council expressing concerns. The letter has not been sent but I am please to report that the provocative photographs have been removed. I would like to thank Alan Bowser and the Neighborhoods Committee for their support.

Chairs Report

Debbie Spielberg reported that:

- The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board *will not meet in August 2006.*

- The Retreat was a good start and provided a good structure for us to have a brief meeting perhaps two hours on a week night to move forward with a strategic plan for the upcoming year. We will have a proposal for a few evening dates to see if enough people are available.
- The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board is supposed to have a representative on the Urban District Advisory Board because of the new recommendations and will happen at some point in the near future.

Gary Stith stated there is no clear deadline. Charles Atwell is your current nominee and he has one more year to serve for his appointed term. I asked the County Executive Office to see if they wanted to go ahead and get someone from the SSCAB take his place now or wait until his term is up.

Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee consisted of Marilyn Seitz, Loyce Grigsby and Graciela Jascheck. All candidates gave a three minute synopsis of their experience and reasons why they should be elected.

The Nominating Committee passed out ballots and the Board voted on each Officer's position. *The following are the elected officers of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Debbie Spielberg, Chair, Korey Hartwich, Executive Vice-Chair and Eric Hensal, Parliamentary Vice Chair.*

The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously accepted and approved the nominations by each Committee as follows:

Commercial and Economic Development

Committee Chair - Phil Olivetti

Community Co-Chair – Cris Bombaugh

Neighborhood Committee

Committee Chair – Alan Bowser

Community Co-Chair – Anita Morrison

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee

Committee Chair - Darian Unger

Community Co- Chair – Dale Tibbets

Committee Structure

Debbie Spielberg reported that per the bylaws, the Executive Committee is directed to recommend changes in the composition of the standing committees. The Executive Committee recommends the following:

1. The three existing committees should remain the same.
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Budget and Fiscal Policy, which is described below.
To establish an "Ad Hoc Committee on Budget and Fiscal Policy" to advise the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board on County budget and fiscal matters, as they relate to Silver Spring service area. The Ad Hoc Committee would meet, as needed to review and consider current and prospective County budget matters, and would be charged with developing and recommending to the full Advisory Board, the Advisory Board Chair's budget-related testimony (CIP and Operating Budget) to the Montgomery County Council and County Executive's representative. Members of this committee will work to understand the relevant budget processes on behalf of the Board and keep the Board informed of timelines for Board action. Members of this

committee should be in close communication with the other committees to understand and identify budget priorities and requests. The Board Chair and Executive Committee will review the status of the Ad Hoc Committee after a year and recommend whether the Ad Hoc Committee should be constituted as a Standing Committee of the Citizens Advisory Board. Please contact Debbie Spielberg or other members of the Executive Committee if you are interested in being the Chair and/or serving on the Ad-Hoc Committee

Motion: (Olivetti, Stevens) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously approved that the 3 existing Standing Committees remain the same and that an Ad-Hoc Committee on Budget and Fiscal Policy would meet as needed.

Gary Stith asked the Board when the Ad Hoc Committee would meet for the purposes of staffing and informed them that the County Budget process at the Department level begins in September.

Transportation & Pedestrian Safety Committee

Debbie Spielberg reported that the Committee met on May 24 and a summary of the meeting notes is in the packet.

Topics of discussions tonight are as follows:

Metropolitan Branch Trail: After a Phase 1 design study of the trail from the Silver Spring Transit Center to Takoma College, DPWT is recommending Option 5, which raises great concern about the biking community. Option 1, which is the preferred option for bikers, would include a bridge over Georgia Avenue and a tunnel. Option 5, the least expensive option, would not have either a bridge or tunnel and would not be bike friendly at some crucial intersections and roads. One of the concerns has been DPWT's lack of providing cost estimates for key components in Option 1, while at the same time dismissing Option 1 as too expensive. Eric referenced some studies that have shown that tunnels are pedestrian-and bike-safe and mentioned similar constructions that were not wildly expensive.

Action: The Transportation & Pedestrian Safety committee voted to recommend that the Board send a letter expressing support for building Option 1 and requesting more information on the costs of certain components included in Option 1.

Motion: (Spielberg, Stevens) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously agreed to send a letter expressing support for building Option 1. (*See informational material for finalized letter*).

Kennett Street Garage Entrance

There is a County proposed plan to re-open the Eastern Avenue entrance of the Kennett Street garage in South Silver Spring. It came up at our meeting two months ago and we asked that we hear from the County. Rick Siebert, Chief of Parking Operations came to our last Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee meeting and discuss with a number of residence there is a great concern that they open a second entrance on Eastern Avenue and that this entrance has become more of a pedestrian walkway.. People in South Silver Spring are very concern that it will discourage pedestrian traffic and increase safety concerns. The Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee agreed to send a letter inquiring whether the signs were necessary and requesting that in the interim signs be posed identifying the hours for restricted spaces.

Motion: (Spielberg, Yokoyoma) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously agreed to send a letter expressing their concerns on the proposed County plan to re-open the Eastern Avenue entrance of the Kennett Street garage in South Silver Spring to the County Executive and copy to Director, DPWT. *(See informational material for finalized letter).*

Gary Stith stated that DHCA is having a meeting on Wednesday, June 14, at 7:00 p.m. at the Days Inn to discuss plans for widening the sidewalk adjacent to this driveway and adding lighting and improving the area. Even though this is part of the pedestrian link this link and some of the other links planned were never intended to be restricted just for pedestrian use. They are widening the sidewalk from 5 feet to 8 feet, and adding bracket lights on the building. The Parking Lot District, (PLD) needs to use the entrance because there are more cars in the garage than before. The reason that entrance was cut off to begin with was no one was using it and all the traffic was going in and out on Kennett Street. The PLD has plans to add on to the existing garage and there will be even more traffic going in and out so one entrance and exit will not be adequate for future needs.

Use of Kennett Street Garage

Some portion of the Kennett Street garage is reserved for Discovery employees it was done when Discovery agreed to move into South Silver Spring. There are now many residents in South Silver Spring and they are concerned about not finding enough parking in the garage and not being able to use the reserve spots. The request is that the reserve spot be removed because we are not clear on why you would reserve spot for a particular business. Another issue is there are no signs indicating those spaces are reserved only during the day weekdays and at the very least Monday thru Friday 7a.m. to 7p.m. We are asking in the letter that the reserve signs be removed but before that they need to post signs notifying people that those reserved restrictions are only in effect Monday thru Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Obviously the residents are having the greatest problems evenings and weekends and the lot will be totally full on Sunday night they park in reserve spots and don't move there car Monday morning and receive tickets so putting signs up will not solve the problem alone.

Discussion

Phil Olivetti asked if anyone had asked Discovery about what impact this would have on their operations.

Evan Glass stated that the question is the fairness of marking off two floors of a four story parking lot to Discovery employees in a County facility where the residents pay for a permit. Anyone with a permit should be able to park in any public parking lot but you can not park on two floors of this garage.

Debbie Spielberg stated that this issue was discussed with Rick Siebert and what he reported was that in the non-reserved areas when he checked high use time spaces were still available in non-reserved spots and the residents thought there were a number of other times during the day when parking should be checked because they personally had problems finding parking in the non-reserve spots.

6

Phil Olivetti asked if anyone can go in and reserve a space or is it first come first serve.

Evan Glass stated those floors are marked DCI Only.

Motion: (Spielberg, Unger) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to send the letter regarding reserved parking spaces in the Kennett Street garage (*13 in favor 3 opposed and 2 abstention*) (*See informational material for finalized letter*).

Marilyn Seitz suggested that the Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee follow-up and talk to Discovery and County about whether the special permit allows for the floor to be reserved for Discovery only.

Montgomery Hills

The letter regarding Montgomery Hills has been in the packet twice. This letter has a variety of issues regarding Montgomery Hills and there has been some changes based on Board member's comments and suggestion.

Discussion

Alan Bowser asked if the letter addressed to Darrell Mobley, District 3 Engineer, State Highway Administration is the appropriate rank to receive a letter that discusses extensive transportation changes in the area.

Phil Olivetti stated that the meetings and discussions where with Darrell Mobley, District 3 Engineer, State Highway Administration and since he new the subject matter and handled the follow-up on questions pertaining to this issue the letter should be addressed to him.

Gary Stith stated that this segment of Georgia Avenue through Montgomery Hills has been designated as high priority by the County in the past. The County has noted that this is an area the State needs to focus on and I will get the Board information on the specific designation and adding that in the letter might give it more influence. The next issue is that this letter needs to be addressed to the County Executive asking him to approach SHA and advocate these issue which would probably have more impact on SHA and would be more appropriate as your role as Advisory to the County Executive.

Korey Hartwich stated that we have had discussions in previous meetings regarding whom our letters should be addressed to and there are no written regulation stating the Board can not communicate with anyone except the County Executive and until we see some written documentation I continue to feel it is within the Board's right to communicate with other organizations of the State Government and continuously sending things to Mr. Duncan just because some feel that is proper protocol our makes our role smaller and smaller.

Victor Salazar stated that in preparation of the SSCAB Annual Report I reviewed some of the policies and procedures of how the Boards are to interact but as far as my research I did not see any written documentation that would limit the Board. I took these word directly from the website *Advisor to the County Executive and County Council in issues and needs for the Silver Spring Area and advocates for regional priorities*. I thought this gave us permission to look a

little bit broader than just our area and did not see anything in the regulation that prohibited us from interacting with others.

Motion: (Spielberg, Olivetti) that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board unanimously agreed to send the letter to Darrell Mobley, District 3 Engineer, State Highway Administration and copy the County Executive, County Council, Delegates, Senator, *(all in favor 17, 1 abstention.) (See informational material for finalized letter).*

Commercial and Economic Development

Phil Olivetti reported that:

- The summary of the last CED Committee meeting is located on page 31 of the packet and one error made under attendance was the Committee determine that political affiliation should not accompany names.
- There are no action items associated with the CED Committee summary.
- One item needing discussion is the Birchmere. At the last Board meeting we adopted and supported a resolution for the Birchmere to be in Silver Spring, calling upon our elected officials to work in some manner to make this happen. We determined that we needed to investigate the issue more fully with community organizations, County Officials and the Developer to get additional input and the financial information. A
- The CED Committee met with David Edgerly, Director, Montgomery County Economic Development, and Bruce Lee, Lee Development Corp for discussion. (For full details of discussion of CED Committee refer to page 31 of the June). We specifically asked Mr. Edgerly if there was anything needed from the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board that would assist in going forward and getting the \$8 million dollars to get the Birchmere in Silver Spring and he responded that the timing is not right and nothing can be done at this time. The CED Committee did not vote on any action item on this issue and I understand that there are concerns on why the Committee did not go forward with a letter so if people have questions the Committee is here to answer them.

Discussion

Mark Woodard stated that the consensus at the CED meeting was there are a number of steps to take over the next several months. While it is true the feedback we received at the meeting from Messrs. Edgerly and Lee was that the issue will not get resolved until after the elections they did suggest that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board support the project, have an active participation within the community going forward and for us to stay in contact with Gary Stith and David Edgerly. It was a clear and emphatic sentiment of all that we take a very active energetic role in seeing that this project comes to fruition. I don't think a letter would be a problem to weigh in with the members of the County Council and County Executive. The more important issue is that everybody wants this project to go forward and for this Board to play an active and energetic role and at this point I am not sure what is written fully reflects very strong and unanimous energetic support by the Board.

Phil Olivetti stated that we have already decided the Birchmere is a priority and should be Silver Spring and believed that it is incumbent upon the CED Committee to recommend steps to the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board to do just that. We need to do more than simply wait for



the \$8 million dollars. John Evansoff has been very helpful with his suggestions and I am looking forward to others ideas and thoughts in recommending exactly what the Board should do.

John Evansoff stated that the community is speaking on the Birchmere and the Silver Spring Forward has collected 1,000 e-mails supporting their position and we as advocates for the community should be speaking out on the Birchmere issue.

Victor Salazar stated that sometimes advocacy can work to your advantage even though it may be an opposition to a previous construction schedule or modernization schedule that the County has already planned. If you followed the Seven Locks issue out in Potomac the elementary schools were not on the modernization schedule for upgrades to handle additional capacity but through organized community member's effort of informing the County Government of the schools issues they are moving ahead. Victor also stated that he was not advocating for a letter on the Birchmere at this point but was interested in the CED Committees plans because if the Birchmere issue is not on the book the Board will need a plan that will make sure that it becomes a part of the CIP budget for FY09.

Marilyn Seitz stated that the CED summary notes has an entire paragraph on the CED action items for the Birchmere and one of the suggestions is writing a letter to hand –deliver to the new Planning Board Chairman.

Kathy Stevens stated that this provides an opportunity to go back to Silver Spring Forward and see if they are planning anything more discussions and while I do understand there are a lot of signatures what other ways can the Board be involved as opposed to just writing a letter.

Mitch Warren stated that a letter would be very useful in explaining the situation to the community and that there is currently a Council race for our District and we can make this an issue and send information to our list serves.

Phil Olivetti stated that the Board adopted a Resolution for the Birch mere and it was in the Gazette but other than that it was not disseminated. A general policy issue is that all the developers put money directly into a project but there is a question about why can't the monies for optional method development in the CBD be pulled so when you need a large sum of money for project like the Birchmere you could take it from that money. Most of the developer do enhancements on site in large part to increase the marketability of there property as opposed to actually adding value to the community.

Alan Bowser stated that it is important that the Board send a letter for general support for the Birchmere expressing the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board's view to the County Council and County Executive stating that we think this would be a wonderful enhancement to the Arts and Entertainment District.

Neighborhood Committee

Alan Bowser reported that:

Neighborhood Committee Summary meeting notes are located on page 34 of the packet and we have two letters for full Board approval.

Motion: (Bowser, Yokoyama) the Silver Citizens Advisory Board unanimously agreed to send a congratulation letter to Ms. Kimberly Oliver for receiving the 2006 National Teacher of the Year Award.

The letter is page 36 references the issue of the provocative photographs of young men and women that had been posted in the window at the vacant storefront at the corner of Colesville and Fenton Street. This issue was debated quiet energetically in the local press specifically in the Gazette and a topic of lively discussion on the community list serves. I thought that if somebody felt that strongly to come to the Neighborhood Committee and make this presentation and the Committee thought this was an issue for the full Boards consideration that we would draft a letter for SSCAB approval. The pictures have been removed but I am interested in knowing what the Board thoughts are about this type of discussion.

Motion: (Bowser, Yokoyama) After discussion the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board voted to unanimously to table the letter on page 36 of the June packet regarding concerns about the provocative photographs posted in the windows of a vacant storefront at the corner of Colesville Road and Fenton Street in downtown Silver Spring because of constitutional rights, legal issue of censorship and the photographs have been removed.

Alan Bowser stated that the report from the Community Forum on Emergency Preparedness held on May 20 was located on page 38 of the June Packet. The attendance was lower then anticipated but it was an important function and we received useful information which we sent out to the community along with this report.

Last Thursday I attended on behalf of the Board the Northwest Park/Oakview Weed and Seed Steering Committee meeting that is held quarterly over at St. Camilla's Church in the Oakview. This section of the County is one of the under served neighborhoods and the Neighborhoods Committee will be discussing Weed and Seed issues at there next meeting and we hope Muriel Bowser will attend and give an update on the things they are doing.

For the Record

Alan Bowser expressed the Neighborhoods Committees appreciation to Victor Salazar for all his work as Executive Vice Chair and working with the Committee, Board, and on the anti gang summit which was very successful.

Civic Building Governance

Graciela Jaschek reported on the History of the Civic Building, Management Options, County Management Model and Non-Profit Model as follows:

- The Armory building was torn down to give way to development in downtown Silver Spring with a promise from the County Executive to build a Civic Building.
- In 1997 a 35 member steering committee was created to discuss management and programming of the Civic Building

10

- 1998-2001 Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board creates subcommittee for community input
- 2001 – new steering committee emerges
- 2004 - Silver Spring Town Center, Inc was created

At the last meeting we discussed the different management options that the Steering Committee discussed for the Civic Building and the four options are:

1. County manages the building with programming similar to Community Center
2. Contract to the private sector (Ex: the Marriott Corporation)
3. "Friends of the Civic building" for fundraising but no programming control
4. Non-profit entity programs the building but the County manages the facility.

I would like to discuss the County Management Model and the Non-Profit Model because even though the Non-Profit Model is in existence by contacting other I hear and understand that some people would like to compare the two models. I have thought about the four most important issues and they are funding, government, staffing and accountability. In the County Management Model the funding would come from the County operating Budget and program revenues. The Governance would be through an Advisory Board under the Silver Spring Regional Center. The Staffing would be from the Silver Spring Regional center hiring a facility manager and other staff would be hired as needed and the accountability for the Facility Manager would be the same as for any County Employee.

In the Non Profit Model the funding would come from the operating budget, program revenues, fundraising from foundations, State, private and corporate donors. The Governance would be the by-laws that are registered with the State specifying 2/3 community members 1/3 at-large and appointed members. There has been some discussion about the Board completion and there is not a representative board at this point and they are asking for a 20 to 25 member board. They have thirteen members and have stop recruiting new members because they don't know if they will be in existence in the future. The staffing would be an Executive Director hired by the board, and other staff would be hired by the Executive Director. The accountability is the yearly contract monitored by the County, by-laws and audits.

The next meeting is Tuesday June 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Spring Regional Center 8435 Georgia Avenue.

Discussion

Korey Hartwich asked what the difference was between the Friends of the Civic Building and the non-profit entity.

Eric Hensal responded that the Friends of the Civic Building would be a non-profit and depending on whether the non-profit has a contract to operate or if they would just raise money.

Vic Weissberg asked about the difference between the two and if there are other facilities in the County that have been operated under each and any observations of how they work.

Gary Stith responded that all community recreation centers are operated by the Department of Recreation and that is an example of a County management model. There are several non-profit

models such as Black Rock Arts Center which is owned by the County and operated by a non-profit. Glen Echo is owned by the Federal Government Parks Department but is under agreement with the County and they operate and manage but have a contract with a non-profit. The by-laws of this particular non-profit were used as the model for proposed Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. There are other non-profit groups that operate County facilities for example AFI Silver Theatre which is owned by the County, and Round House. The Urban District in Bethesda is operated by a non-profit created by the County, all the arts funding throughout the County goes through the Arts and Humanities Council which is a non-profit created by the County and they appoint their own Board members. There are several other non-profits that either provide services for the County or operate County facilities.

Debbie Spielberg stated that each of the facilities Gary Stith mentioned are unique and nothing is identical to what this town center is envisioned to be.

Graciela Jaschek stated that when a non-profit is created they are required to have by-laws, and put in a tax form with the IRS. One thing I would like to point out is the Steering Committee members have worked for the last eight or nine years on ways that the citizens of Silver Spring have more control in what goes on in the building. Essentially they want members on the Board from every age group, other communities in Silver Spring, businesses, renters, and owners.

Mark Woodard stated that he would like to know the pros and cons of each of the approaches for the building because the summarizing of the two models has been very helpful it does not give enough information to make a decision as to which way to go. I need the distilled wisdom that the ad-hoc committee is working on stating here are the five reasons why we should or should not go this way on each one. The information provided by the ad-hoc committee would be useful to the Board to assist us in making a recommendation.

Annual Report

Victor Salazar distributed the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Annual Report and the Annual Report Supplement dated May 1, 2005 – April 30 2006. *(For complete details of an excellent report please refer to the handouts).*

The Annual Report is the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board celebration of highlights and accomplishment over the past year. Advertising who we are, where we've been and acknowledging those who participated with us to make our year successful. The report is not complete because I still need to receive some other materials but I wanted to show the Board what I have done with the annual report so far. These materials will be useful and can be distributed at meetings, put on the web letting the community get an idea of the Board, where we are and that the SSCAB and SSRC are tied together. If Board members have comments or suggestion please e-mail me by the July Board meeting so that I can have the final report completed and presented to the Board at the September meeting.

Presentation of By-Law Amendments

Korey Hartwich reported that:

- The Board does not vote on bylaws or any amendments to our bylaws tonight. I am presenting them to the Board for consideration and we can discuss and think about it and vote at the July meeting. *(For the changes presented at the June meeting on the amendments to the SSCAB By-laws please refer to the informational section).*

Director Report

Gary Stith reported that:

- Arts on the Block which is an organization that works with youth using art as a method of giving them work skills and experience did a project this year and the lead artist was Bryon Peck. They had an unveiling last Friday of the Silver Pass which is a tile mosaic which was beautifully done and it is in the Georgia Avenue underpass on both sides. It was funded in part by funds from DHCA, the Silver Spring Urban District and several private and corporate contributions.
- SILVERDOCS Documentary Film Festival opens this Tuesday and there are several free outdoor events. The outdoor events are listed on the Silver Spring downtown website and AFI website. Director Martin Scorsese, Al Gore and several other interesting people will be attending the festival.
- DHCA is making a presentation on improvements for that link of the pedestrian link program on June 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Days Inn. DHCA has also taking control of the Thrifty car rental property that is in the block between East West Highway and Kennett Street so in the interim while all the construction is going on, the PLD will manage that site for short term parking for businesses in the area and long term DHCA will be turning that into part of the pedestrian link program.
- Headliner for the September Jazz Festival is Spyro Gyra.
- Silver Spring Swings started June 8 and will go for the next nine weeks every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Plaza. We have an information table and are looking for volunteers so if Board members want to be involved contact Muriel Bowser.
- The Civic Building Presentation to the public on the latest design of the building will be at 7:00 p.m., on July 12 at the Blackbox Theatre next to AFI Silver Theatre on Colesville Road.

Discussion

Korey Hartwich thanked Gary Stith for fixing some of the parking problems that businesses where having in South Silver Spring and asked for clarification for releasing personal Board information to the public and non-government entities especially addresses and phone numbers.

Gary Stith responded that Silver Spring Regional Center does not generally give out contact information but Board names are located in various public locations and it is public information in terms of your participation on this Board.

Darian Unger wanted to know the status of the fountain.

Gary Stith responded that the installation of the fountain was done according to the manufacturer's specification and failed. The glass tiles from Italy cracked and there where concerns that kids playing would get injured so they closed it. The manufacturer has agreed to provide new materials and the developer is responsible for the maintenance and paying the cost

of the reinstallation. The process has started and should be completed in approximately two weeks.

Victor Salazar stated he had posted a question on the listserv related to the Purple Line and asked Gary Stith if the Board decided to put something together for the public when would be a good time.

Gary Stith responded that MTA has been having focus meetings for about a year now with various neighborhoods and civic associations. They have split the project into segments and the focus groups are looking at those segments. I think this would be a good role for the Board to do but would suggest waiting until early October because they are continuing to do more in-depth review of the different routes and the information they have will be more developed by that time. They will not make the final recommendation on the preferred route until spring 2007.

9:15 p.m. Meeting adjourned